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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/73/L.23

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of draft resolution A/73/L.23, the General Assembly would:

(a) Welcome the fact that Egypt has agreed to the opening of the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States in Cairo with the aim of improving the effectiveness of cooperation between the two organizations, and request that the Secretariat of the United Nations coordinate with Egypt to expedite the opening of the office and, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States, to finish preparing and adopt the terms of reference defining the functions and mandate of the United Nations office; and, in that context, request the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to continue convening meetings of the high-level working group to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the protocol of amendment of the text of the cooperation agreement between the two organizations, until the liaison office is opened in Cairo;

(b) Request the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to continue their periodic consultations, at all levels, in order to exchange information, and review and strengthen coordination and follow-up mechanisms, particularly in the political and security fields;

(c) Emphasize the importance of holding the fourteenth sectoral meeting between the two organizations and their specialized agencies, to be held at the

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Headquarters of the League of Arab States in 2019, for which the dates and theme will be agreed by the two secretariats in due course, and the fifteenth general cooperation meeting between the two organizations, to be held at the United Nations centre in Vienna in 2020, for which the dates will be agreed by the two secretariats in due course.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

2. The requested activities referred to in draft resolution A/73/L.23 relate to programme 2, Political affairs, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1) and section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 3)).

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution, the opening of the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States in Cairo is envisaged to be in line with the provision of section D of the protocol of amendment of the text of the agreement of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States signed on 24 September 2016 and aimed at strengthening the existing cooperation between the two organizations.

4. The office would enhance the partnership and improve interaction between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in the area of international peace and security, including in the areas of conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, as well as allow for the development of a better understanding of the partnership opportunities and capacity-building needs of the League of Arab States and related plans for United Nations support.

5. The liaison office would facilitate dialogue effectively and serve as an institutionalized dialogue mechanism between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in pursuit of the common goals and objectives of the two organizations. It would assist in organizing and conducting joint workshops, meetings, seminars and training activities. It would work with League of Arab States counterparts to identify potential areas of support from the United Nations for capacity development and exchange of expertise and best practices.

6. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the fifteenth general cooperation meeting between the two organizations would be held at the United Nations centre in Vienna in 2020, on a date to be agreed upon, in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in due course. It is envisaged that the meeting would comprise three days with interpretation in two languages (Arabic and English).

IV. Modifications required in the programme of work and the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

7. To meet the provisions of the draft resolution, the outputs under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 would need to be amended in respect of activities during the implementation of the budget. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a new subprogramme, United Nations liaison office to non-United Nations intergovernmental entities (League of Arab

States), would be established within section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 as follows:

"Subprogramme 7: United Nations liaison office to non-United Nations intergovernmental entities (League of Arab States)

Objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: More effective collaboration between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*	*Performance measures*	*2019*
(a) Improved consultations and information-sharing between the United Nations and the League of Arab States	(i) Effective functioning of the Cairo office	Target	Cairo office is opened and functional by the first quarter of 2019
	(ii) Regular consultative activities carried out between the United Nations and the League of Arab States secretariats	Target	Number of joint workshops, seminars and training activities held between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
(b) Enhanced support for the development of League of Arab States capacities	Capacity-building needs of the League of Arab States and related plans for United Nations support are realized	Target	Mapping of cooperation activities is prepared in 2019
		Target	Number of capacity-building initiatives identified in 2019

External factors

The office is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that there will be continued political will and commitment on the part of States Members of the United Nations and the League of Arab States in strengthening the cooperation between the two institutions.

Outputs

In 2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Categories of outputs and final outputs

Outputs	*Quantity*
International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison	
1. Contributions to the implementation of multilateral decisions adopted by the League of Arab States and the United Nations	3
Other substantive activities	
2. Regular and ad hoc meetings and consultations with the League of Arab States, including biennial United Nations-League of Arab States general cooperation meetings and sectoral meetings	10
3. Organization of an annual capacity-building activity for the League of Arab States Secretariat	1"

V. Financial implications of the proposals

8. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, it is estimated that additional requirements in the amount of $287,400 would arise for 2019 in the biennium 2018–2019 under section 3, Political affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment.

9. Two posts (1 P-5 and 1 Local level) would be based in Cairo. Substantive and administrative support would be provided to the office by the Department of Political

and Peacebuilding Affairs. Additional location-dependent logistical support would be provided by the United Nations Development Programme in Cairo on a cost-reimbursable basis.

10. The Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) would be responsible for developing a stakeholder network to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States while monitoring and reporting on discussions, particularly with implications for peace and security, taking place in the League of Arab States and other forums. The Senior Political Affairs Officer would continue to fortify the United Nations-League of Arab States partnership by facilitating institutional dialogue mechanisms with the League of Arab States and would support other exchanges, workshops and training on issues related to peace and security. The Senior Political Affairs Officer would represent the United Nations in meetings, manage the liaison office and proactively seek new opportunities, with a view to strengthening cooperation between the two organizations. Under the supervision of the Senior Political Affairs Officer, an Administrative Assistant (Local level) would provide administrative support to the office, including a wide range of office support, logistics and administrative functions.

11. Operational requirements include official travel, facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, communications, information technology and other supplies, services and equipment.

12. The details of these additional resource requirements for 2019 are set out in the table below.

Additional resource requirements, by section of the programme budget

(United States dollars)

Section	*Resource requirements*
Section 3, Political affairs	
Posts (1 P-5 and 1 Local level)	151 300
Official travel	29 700
General operating expenses	62 600
Supplies and materials	700
Furniture and equipment	22 800
Subtotal, section 3	**267 100**
Section 36, Staff assessment	
Staff assessment	20 300
Total	**287 400**

VI. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2018–2019

13. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the activities requested in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution. At this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of $287,400 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

VII. Contingency fund

14. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

VIII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

15. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/73/L.23, additional resource requirements in the amount of $267,100 for 2019 would arise under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, as would an additional amount of $20,300 under section 36, Staff assessment to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

16. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/73/L.23, the amount of $287,400 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund, and the establishment of two posts (1 P-5 and 1 Local level) effective 1 January 2019, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 would be required.**